United Nations S/2000/1212

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 December 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 19 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I present my compliments to you and have the honour to forward herewith a position paper from Kazakhstan on the situation in Afghanistan (see annex).

I request that the attached paper be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Madina S. **Jarbussynova**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

00-80674 (E) 201200

Annex to the letter dated 19 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Position paper of Kazakhstan on the situation in Afghanistan

Kazakhstan fully shares the deep concern of the international community over the complex situation created in Afghanistan as a result of many years of conflict. The never-ending war, which has plunged the country into a profound political, economic and humanitarian crisis, has inflicted great suffering on the people of Afghanistan, consigning them to new hardships.

The civil conflict has had grave consequences: the country has been turned into one of the major world centres for drug production and exportation. Its territory, where an enormous amount of weapons has been accumulated and where terrorist training centres have been established, has become a springboard for spreading extremism and international terrorism in Central Asia.

Kazakhstan fully shares the concern, expressed by the Secretary-General in his report on Afghanistan, that the recent incursions by Islamic militants into the territory of Central Asian countries highlight once again the danger of a further spreading of the conflict and the need for a comprehensive rather than a piecemeal approach to the Afghan crisis.

Alarmed by these developments in the region, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan A. Nazarbaev, addressing the Millennium Summit, called for a special meeting of the United Nations Security Council devoted to the consideration of the situation in Afghanistan and Central Asia in order to devise practical measures to stabilize the situation. The objective of that meeting should be the development of common approaches to the issues of intra-Afghan settlement, the adoption of effective measures to find a way out of the existing situation, together with the interested parties, and the prevention of a spill-over of this conflict in Central Asia.

The military solution to the crisis in Afghanistan simply does not exist. Today, one of the priorities is an immediate ceasefire between the belligerents, followed by the opening of a political dialogue and the establishment of a broad-based, multi-ethnic government. One of the root causes of the prolonged hostilities is the continued interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan through military and other assistance given to certain groups. Therefore, it is very important that the neighbouring and interested countries strictly adhere to the principles proclaimed in the Tashkent Declaration.

Kazakhstan believes that the key to the solution to the Afghan problem lies in the economic revival of the country. It is convinced that the active engagement of the world, the regional powers, donor countries, the permanent members of the Security Council and countries of the European Union, regional States and international financial institutions is absolutely essential in the context of the economic stimulation of the negotiation process between the belligerents. All actors concerned should strive, first and foremost, to bring hope to the parties and the Afghan people as a whole for large-scale assistance by the international community

for the rehabilitation of the economy of Afghanistan, which has been devastated by the war, and for the normalization of life.

Isolated measures, arms embargoes or sporadic efforts to combat the drug trade, will fail to produce a long-term effect. It is necessary to develop a comprehensive plan of economic rehabilitation of Afghanistan, which would contain, along with the mobilization of international economic assistance, elements such as the use of the capacity of the business and intellectual elite of the country now living abroad, the establishment of a system of public administration, the restoration of the capacity of the people of Afghanistan to solve their problems themselves, the creation, for this purpose, of appropriate democratic and other incentives, the holding of elections under international supervision and the elimination of the effects of the humanitarian disaster. All these objectives cannot be achieved without the return and rehabilitation of the refugees and measures to combat illegal trafficking in drugs and arms, illegal migration and terrorism.

Kazakhstan gives a generally positive assessment of the work of the Sanctions Committee. At the same time, it calls for a balanced approach to the adoption of further measures because sanctions, imposed by necessity, should justify their goals. Precisely for that reason, it is important to ensure that, before taking additional measures, the Council carefully weigh the effects of the sanctions on all aspects of the settlement of the situation in Afghanistan and, first of all, their possible unintended implications for the civilian population.

A key role in the settlement of the situation in Afghanistan belongs to the United Nations, which is an unbiased intermediary in the efforts to achieve peace and national reconciliation in the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Kazakhstan fully supports the efforts of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Fransesc Vendrell, and the activities of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, and expresses its willingness to continue to render them necessary assistance. An important outcome of the activities of the Personal Representative is the agreement by the belligerents to resume dialogue without any preconditions. An early adoption by the parties of a comprehensive agenda of these talks is a top priority in the context of these agreements.

It is in the interests of the international community that a broad-based and representative government come to power in the Islamic State of Afghanistan, one that would fully ensure internal security and stability and the management of the processes of reconstruction and development of all spheres of life, as well as the implementation of a foreign policy within the framework of a civilized dialogue with all countries on the basis of the established international norms.

The international community should not give preference to any of the factions or groups in Afghanistan: on the contrary, it should create the most favourable external environment for a broad and comprehensive national dialogue in the Islamic State of Afghanistan on the basis of a clear-cut and integrated plan of political, economic and social rehabilitation of Afghanistan. In the long run, it is up to the Afghans themselves to decide whether Afghanistan will be an Islamic or a secular state.

It is for this reason that Kazakhstan wanted a special open meeting of the Security Council to be convened, whereby the States, having displayed political will, would assume obligations concerning a final and comprehensive settlement of

the Afghan conflict in all its aspects. A further step in this direction would be the development of a specific plan of political, economic, social and humanitarian rehabilitation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, bolstered by adequate financial resources. Kazakhstan believes that it is time to back up words with deeds before metastases of the Afghan conflict develop far beyond Afghanistan.

Fully supporting the efforts of the United Nations related to the comprehensive settlement of the situation in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan intends to continue to cooperate actively in this endeavour.